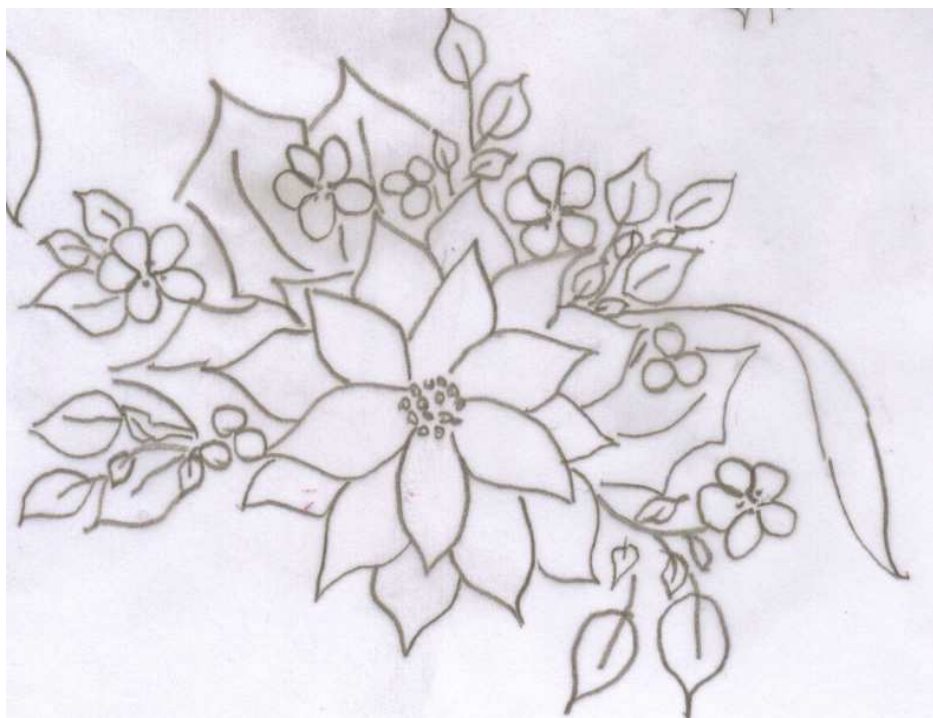


# **THE INDICATOR**

**June - July - August  
2014**



***Beckenham Methodist  
Church***



# **Beckenham Methodist Church**

**Bromley Road**

**Clock House Road**

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

## **Personal message from the Revd. Rachel Parkes**

Dear Friends,

On the 4th March, with great sadness and much searching, I wrote to the President of the Methodist Conference asking to withdraw from training (resign) as a Probationer Presbyter.

Coming into Ministry in Beckenham was a wonderful experience filled with great happiness and laughter, but also the struggles and tears which are associated with life and sharing other people's lives. I had an absolute ball and those I came into contact with and grew to love brightened my life and gave me joy. I was challenged and my life was enriched. But in October 2013 I broke down in tears to James, saying that I just couldn't cope with it all anymore; after talking we realised the feelings and struggles which I had felt, ignored and concealed over the previous weeks were probably a recurrence of the depression which I had suffered a few years earlier. I visited my GP and was placed on anti-depressants and referred for counselling. I thought that this would be manageable and so for a few weeks continued to work and I didn't hate or struggle every minute, but I could feel that my heart just wasn't in it and that I didn't have the energy to keep going and it was making me feel worse.

James and I went to Malta, expecting that the time away, space, rest and a different climate would do me the world of good.

Our hope was it would enable me to work out how to move forward and find ways in which I could continue the Ministry which I loved, couldn't imagine a future without and knew I was called to. But during this time it became abundantly clear that 10 days in the sun was not going to fix anything and therefore on our return I went again to my GP to be signed off. My time since has been spent trying to look after myself and heal, but also with a huge amount of guilt at not sharing in people's lives, not coming to festivals of the Church calendar, not comforting those who were bereaved and not continuing to share my life with you all. I felt huge anxiety worrying how I would be perceived without "visible sign of illness" and struggling with the difficulties of having such a mentally crippling illness which left me with no energy, no enthusiasm and not fully recognising the person I was compared to who I had been months before.

Over the last 6 months there have been ups and downs. Thankfully the downs are getting less severe and the up days are more frequent, but most days are a struggle just to do the basic jobs which need to be done, such as cooking, loading the dishwasher and interacting with people. Therefore after many discussions with James, with Rev. Jenny Impey, with friends and family, I reached the conclusion that for the foreseeable future I would not have the energy, enthusiasm or drive to return to Ministry, and could not imagine when and if this would ever happen. Therefore I felt that I had no choice in being fair to you, my congregations in Beckenham, to the Church as a whole and to my own health and well-being but to resign. So with a huge amount of tears, grieving and difficulty I wrote a letter asking for the President's permission to withdraw myself from training.

I met with a group set up by the President and explained to them the journey which I had been on since beginning preaching at 11, through my training, my time as a Minister and then my time off sick. They listened, cared and ultimately supported my request. Therefore from the 30th June I will be resigning both as the Minister of Beckenham Methodist Church and also as a Methodist Minister.

I have to say that this has been one of the most difficult and daunting processes of my life. I loved being a Minister and had been working towards it for so many years that life without the structure, purpose and community worries me.

Life is now full of uncertainties, in terms of what I do, my health and how life will unfold, as well as immeasurable grief at leaving Beckenham, leaving Ministry and leaving a way of life which I worked towards for so long. But also it is full of freedom and possibilities which James and I are looking at as positives. One of the positives, which has got me through and given me some purpose, has been the Wedding. We are hoping that this will be a wonderful occasion, full of joy and the beginning of a future which is brighter than I feel at the moment.

Therefore we would love for as many as possible from Beckenham to join us in celebrating as you are all hugely special to me and it wouldn't feel right taking this step without your presence, as you were the ones who witnessed our relationship flourishing, supported us as a couple and were some of the most important people to whom I was excited to announce our engagement.

We don't want the Wedding to be filled with goodbyes and grief. Therefore James and I would like to invite people to come to the New Manse (38 Bramerton Road) to say farewells, laugh and rejoice in the time which we spent together, even if it was brief, over tea and cake on 21st June from 10 until 3.

With sorrow and love

*Rachel*

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**“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have and only you can determine how it will be spent.**

**Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”**

## MRDF re-launches as **“All We Can”**

Following a service of thanksgiving for 70 years of Methodist relief and development, Westminster Central Hall hosted an audience of current and past Presidents of the Conference with supporters and colleagues for the announcement of the charity’s ambitious future plans.

The new name **“All We Can”** reflects the charity’s commitment to do all it can to tackle poverty and takes its inspiration from words attributed to John Wesley:

**“Do all the good you can.  
By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can.  
At all the times you can.  
To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can.”**

Maurice Adams, Chief Executive of **“All We Can”**, says, “Over the years **“All We Can”**, under various names, has provided support and resources to many millions of people who have been overlooked by others. Our vision for the next chapter in the story of Methodist relief and development work seeks to build upon our strengths and heritage.”

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Some people , no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty– they merely remove it from their faces into their hearts.

## **“Open Door”**

Meetings are held on Monday afternoons from 2 to 3.30 pm.

No obligation to attend every week, so please come and join us whenever you can. You will be very welcome.

### **2014**

**June 2** - Games afternoon e.g. Beetle, Scrabble, Jigsaws

**9** - Play Reading Group

‘An afternoon with Pam Ayres’

**16** - TBA

**23** - TBA

**30** - Revd. Inez Reid

**July 7** - TBA

**14** - Sister Jo Harvey

### **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Please see weekly notices for up-to-date news of topics

We start again on **8th September.**



## **“Open Door”**

*Formerly Monday Fellowship*

**Meet in friendship on Mondays, 2.00 - 3.30pm**

**Wesley Lounge at Beckenham Methodist Church,  
Bromley Road**

**Varied programme including:**

**Time to talk over refreshments / share views on topics  
you'd like to discuss / play games / work together on jig-  
saws / occasional speakers / music / play reading etc.**



**All welcome and bring your friends**

**Need transport?**

**Speak to Jenny Nichols on 020 8460 6713**

## **Our garden at Bromley Road**

I have been involved with our garden here for some decades. It was very untidy, and before the arrival of our car parking area parts of it had again lapsed into patches of weeds. But it has been transformed!

Some people now come up to me and other members of our Team from within the Church, but also local people, and congratulate us about how good the garden looks. I hasten to point out that Angela and myself do very little of the actual work, as the flowers and shrubs are produced by a team of people.

I thought I would put on record my thanks to our Team who, since the creation of our very useful car parking area, have taken over all the garden in separate beds and “tubs”. They select what to plant, often do not ask for reimbursement, and then look after their areas throughout the year.

That Team is: David and Gretta Blacknell, David Dingley, Glenda Grieve, Brian Hermon, Gordon Hughes, Angela and David Keall, Wendy Richman and Joe Young.

*David Keall*

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Employ whatever God has entrusted you with, in doing good, all possible good, in every possible kind and degree.



## **40 Years of Female Presbyters**

To mark the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of women to the Presbyterate in the Methodist Church, there will be a service of celebration on **Saturday 21st June at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU at 2pm.**

Although this is not a ticketed event, in order to have an approximate idea of numbers, if you would like to attend, please send an email to:

OGS@methodistchurch.org.uk

to receive a confirmation of your place.

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## **Worship Consultation**

At our recent meeting amongst other matters we particularly had a discussion about how we should take communion.

We have tried an alternative flow system. For a number of reasons this has not worked and the meeting decided that we should discontinue this method immediately, and not try it again until we have a central aisle, which could be the case if we were to remove the pews and replace them with chairs.

After discussion, the meeting decided that we should revert to the system of having one table at a time, with the minister saying a few words before the communicants leave the rail.

## **Action for Children**

A very big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the wonderful amount of £1,248.15 we have raised so far this year from the Lantern Boxes and donations.

I would like to thank Judith, Joe and Frank who have helped me count and bank the money and also thank Judith for the attractive notices for the screen.

Looking ahead:

### **Action for Children Sunday is 13th July**

Our annual **Garden Party** will be in **Joe Young's** garden on  
**Saturday 28th June 2 - 4.30pm**

**Open Door** invite everyone to a **Coffee Morning** with  
cakes

**Saturday 16th August 10.30am till 12 noon**  
**at Bromley Road**

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall at both events.

P.S. We will also be contributing to the Mustard Seed Mission 'Love in a Box' this autumn. Please look out for details.

*From Wendy*

# Church Anniversary & Gift Day Weekend

## Saturday 7th & 8th June

As usual our Anniversary will be celebrated at Pentecost which this year falls on **Sunday 8th June**. We will of course be celebrating the whole weekend.

### Saturday 7th

A Barbeque at Clock House Road. This will start at **3pm**. Bring your own meat and we will cook it on the BBQ for you. There will be lists in the New Room at Bromley Road and in the long Vestry at Clock House Road for people to volunteer the rest of the food, we will need :- e.g. Salads, nibbles, desserts, etc. Do come and join us, it promises to be a great afternoon.

### Sunday 8th

A joint service will be held at **Bromley Road**.

During this weekend it is also the churches **Gift Day**.

Individual letters have been sent to everyone. The service will celebrate our Anniversary and you will remember it is 2 years since we celebrated our 125th Anniversary so this year we reach the wonderful number 127.

During the service the Gift Day Envelopes will be received . It is of course OK to put them in the collection on any other Sunday that is more convenient for you if you wish..

To make sure we finish the weekend in style the **CTiB** are holding a **picnic on Beckenham Green** which starts at **1pm**. You can find more details of this on another page of this Indicator and there are posters<sub>11</sub> in the New Room (BR) and Long Vestry (CHR)

**Following the GENERAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**held on SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2014**

The **CHURCH STEWARDS** serving from May 1st 2014 are:

**Christine Handel** (Senior Steward)     **Irene Antwi**  
**Comfort Lawson**     **Barry Stewart**     **Sheila Priestman**  
**Jenny Nichols**

**VESTRY STEWARDS:**

**Graham McLeod**     **Peter Wilson**     **Joe Young**  
**Barbara Kyei**     **Bev McCleary**     **Cynthia Campbell**

**Representatives elected to the Church Council** to serve from September 1st 2014:

**Roy Charles, Derek Clift, Carole Dewar, David Dingley, Gordon Hughes, Carole Jefferies, Judith Reep, David Sharp, Jane Sharp, Colin Wilson, Simon Young**

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**EXTRA GENERAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**HOPES and DREAMS FOR STATIONING**  
**SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2014**  
**at BROMLEY ROAD**

Open meeting at **12 noon** after morning services to discuss suggestions for the future Presbyteral Leadership of Beckenham Methodist Church.



## **News from the Church Family**

**We were saddened to hear the death of Janet Gilbey on-Tuesday 20th May. Our prayers go out to her family at this sad time.**

**We congratulate Rachel Parkes on her marriage to James Cruddas on the 31st May.**

**We remember those of our young people who are facing exams in the near future.**

**Joe went to see Betty Ramsden in her new home at Walton on the Hill. She appreciates the Weekly Notice Sheet and the Indicator. She does miss all her friends here in Beckenham.**

**Joe also visited Muriel Hoggarth while she was recuperating in the Queen Mary Home in Chislehurst. Happily Muriel is now back in her own home.**

**We are happy to hear that Sheila's voice is becoming stronger.**

**I would like to thank all my good friends for all their prayers and sympathy and beautiful cards I received following my family tragedy in South Africa.**

# Men's Forum

The Men's Forum continues to meet on the second Saturday of the month at Clock House Road for fellowship and lunch.

It is good to meet together to 'chew the cud'

In May, we had an interesting talk by Alan Durston mainly about the police force. It stimulated some good discussion.

We invite any men who would like to join us for friendly fellowship and a bite to eat.

*Graham McLeod*

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All articles for September/October Indicator must be with David Dingley or Jenny Nichols by **Sunday 17th August** at the latest for distribution on **Sunday 31st August**.

Volunteers are requested to join the folding and stapling party on **Thursday 28th August**



*Joe's Garden Party  
In aid of Action for  
Children*

*From 2.30-4.30pm  
on 28th June  
at  
52 Watercraft Road  
Halstead*

*All are Welcome*

*Church Flowers at BR*

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*June*

*1st Wedding*

*8th Evron Baird*

*15th Margaret Hazlewood*

*22nd*

*29th Frank Thompson*

*July*

*6th Derek Clift*

*13th Betty Ramsden*

*20th David Dingley*

*27th Molly Timmermans*

*August 3rd Jenny Nichols*

*10th*

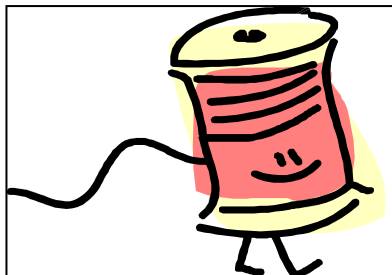
*17th Valerie Wilson*

*24th Brenda Hotham*

*31st Marie Gittings*



# BECKENHAM YOUNG QUILTERS



Learn to sew and make a new project every month. You don't need to know how to sew- we'll show you how.

**Where?** The Wesley Room ,Beckenham Methodist Church Halls, Bromley Rd, Beckenham BR3 5JE

**When?** Saturdays 10 am to 12.30 pm in 2014  
(see the dates below)

**Who can come?** Young people aged 8 to 16

**How much does it cost?** £5 each time- that includes all the things you will need for each project.

**Who's running it?** Members of Beckenham Quilters in partnership with the Quilters Guild

**To find out more and book a place.**

Please contact Jean: 020 8290 5556

or Jenni: 020 8464 7840

[www.beckenhamquilters.org](http://www.beckenhamquilters.org)

**Dates for 2014**

**14<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> November**

## **Pick Up in the Rain**

One night at 11.30pm an older African American women was standing on the side of the Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm.

Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped and helped her, generally unheard of in those conflict filled 1960s.

The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxi cab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached.

### **It read:-**

Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes but also my spirits. Then you came along.

Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's side just before he passed away.

God bless you for helping me and unselfishly helping others.

Sincerely

*Mrs Nat King Cole.*

*South London Singers*

*Present*

*Cardinall's Musick*

*A concert of Music for  
Royal Occasions including*

*Zadok the Priest*

*I was glad*

*O taste and See*

*12th July 2014 at 7.45pm*

*Bromley Road Methodist*

*Church*

## Pentecost - Sunday 8th June

As usual our Anniversary will be celebrated at Pentecost (see further information in this months Indicator). In addition to our own events during that weekend there will also be a Churches Together in Beckenham event on the Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday afternoon, CTiB will be holding an informal picnic on Beckenham Green to which all churches are invited. The picnic starts at **1.30pm** and everyone brings their own picnic plus a little extra so that food can be offered to passers by. If you can help with this please let one of the stewards know.

After lunch a service will be held at approx **2.30-3.30** and various people, including some from our own church (we hope) will speak.

We will be having a stall to tell people about who we are at Beckenham Methodist Church with leaflets telling about Methodism.

There will also be a **Prayer Tent**, a book stall (all free) and a play area for the children (complete with bouncy castle). It should be a wonderful afternoon. Good weather, good company and witnessing to Beckenham together.

Although we hope for good weather should that not prove possible we will move into St George's Church.

Please put the date in your diary and do come and join in.

*Christine Handel*  
*Senior Steward.*

# **Diary Dates**

## **(P) More Information Inside**

### **June**

- Sat 7th 3.00pm Gift Day Barbeque  
CHR (P11)**
- Sun 8th 10.30am Combined Church  
Anniversary Service BR**
- Sun 8th 1.30pm CTiB Pentecost  
Picnic on Beckenham Green (P20)**
- Sat 14th 11.00am Men's Forum CHR**
- Sat 21st Invitation to visit Rachel at the Manse  
38 Bramerton Road Beckenham 10am-3pm (P4)**
- Thurs 26th 11.00am Men's Forum & Lunch**
- Sat 28th 2.30-4.30 Joe's Garden Party  
Action for Children (P15)**

### **July**

- Sun 13th 12.15pm Worship Consultation BR**

### **August**

- Sat 16th 10.30am Action for Children Coffee  
Morning BR**

# Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clock House Rd

**June 1st**

Revd K Jobson

10.30am

Mr J Morley

**June 8th**

Revd M Cassidy

10.30am

Holy Communion

Church Anniversary

Combined Service at Bromley Road

**June 15th**

Revd K George

10.30am

Mr D Lemmon

**June 22nd**

Mr J Holman

10.30am

Mrs P Wilson

**June 29th**

Mr D Dingley

10.30am

Mr M Tinson

**July 6th**

Revd M Cassidy

10.30am

Mrs M Smith

Holy Communion

**July 13th**

Mr J Morley

10.30am

Revd M Cassidy  
Holy Communion

# Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clock House Rd

**July 20th**

Mrs M Bull

10.30am

Revd K Jobson

**July 27th**

Revd M Cassidy

10.30am

Revd K George

**August 3rd**

Revd D Stanworth  
Holy Communion

10.30am

Ms A Driscoll

**August 10th**

Mr M Tinson

10.30am

Revd M Cassidy  
Holy Communion

**August 17th**

Major C Kent

10.30am

Mr J Holman

**August 24th**

Dr J England

10.30am

Mr C Sandy

**August 31st**

Mrs P Wilson

10.30am

Mrs M Bull

# USEFUL CONTACTS

**Minister in Charge:** Revd Rachel Parkes (until 30 June 2014)

**Stewards** Christine Handel (Senior) 8658 1381

Irene Antwi 8778 2124 Comfort Lawson 3539 4914

Sheila Priestman 8460 1091 Barry Stewart 8325 8861

**Church Council Secretary:** Sheila Priestman 8460 1091

**Church Treasurer:** Mark Cheesman 8249 5522

**Junior Church Co-ordinator:** Mary Cook 8656 2815

**Flower Secretaries:** BR Margaret Hazlewood 7733 6116

CHR Irene Antwi 8778 2124

**Property Co-ordinator:** David Jackson 8656 2815

**Property Stewards:** Colin Wilson 8464 3768

David Jackson 8656 2815

Barry Stewart 8325 8861

Roy Charles 8402 5562

Graham McLeod 8325 5243

Rob Love 8658 9771

**Room Booking Officers:** BR David Jackson 8656 2815

CHR Graham McLeod 8325 5243

**Brownies:** Carole Dewar 8650 9027

**Guides:** Karen Millican 8650 6248

**Beavers:** Mandy Sarhane 8650 4822

**Cubs:** Steve Shirley 8650 0330

**Scouts:** Gordon Wilson 8650 1035

**Web Site:** <http://www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk>

**E-mail Address:** (being established)